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places forward or back? Greek words could not have been left intact on such a page, for their significance would have been suggestive to the inquisitive reader, while, if they too had been transposed, according to the code, but in their own alphabet, the small, isolated groups of foreign characters must have given the clue to the cipher. Nor could the letters of the Greek words have been transposed and then written in Latin characters, because of the different order in which the letters occur in the two alphabets as well as the presence in the Greek of the double-consonant symbols. The only feasible way would have been to keep to the vernacular, as Cicero has done in the third and eleventh books.

LOUISE DODGE.

MAMATPAI.

In the current volume of this Journal XXII, p. 195 foll., two American scholars have tried with greater or less probability to carry back to their Indian original form a number of Indian glosses in the Lexicon of Hesychios. With respect to one of them *μαμάτραι οἱ στρατηγοὶ παρ' Ἰνδοῖς*, I would propose another explanation which gives both a simpler account of the word itself and one more in accordance with phonetics. In my opinion, *μαμάτραι* represents Skrt. *mahāmātrāḥ*, a well-known term to denote a minister of high rank. *Mahāmātrāḥ samṛddhe cāmātye hastipakā dhiṣe*. 'Mahāmātra signifies as well a high minister as an elephant-driver.' So the Medinikośa. In literature the word is very common in both acceptations. In the Amarakośa commentary found in the edition of Vamanacharya Jhalakikar, Bombay, 1890, the right etymology is given (p. 181) *mahati mātrā yeṣāṃ te mahāmātrāḥ*. Its translation by *στρατηγοὶ* may have been made by Megasthenes or some other source of information about Indian matters in the time of the Diadochoi; and as *στρατηγός* is employed in a wider sense than to denote mere military power, it may have been considered an adequate term for rendering tolerably well the name by which the Indian high officials were designated. Cp. *στρατηγός* as equivalent of the Roman *praetor*. That *mahāmātra* in Greek transcription must become *μαμάτραι* (as to the accent, cp. *mātrā*), is almost evident.

GRONINGEN.

J. S. SPEYER.